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MRS. OSWALD SAYS SON IS SCAPEGOAT

Thinks He Was C.I.A. Agent 'Set Up to Take Blame'

By WILLIAM M. BLAIR
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—The mother of Lee H. Oswald said today that she believed her son was a United States "intelligence agent" and that he was "set up to take the blame" for the assassination of President Kennedy.

She made the statement to newsmen as she finished three days of testimony before the Presidential commission investigating the assassination. She said she had told the same thing to the commission.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, commission chairman, said the 56-year-old mother had presented no evidence to support her belief that Oswald was an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency.

"She offered no evidence to that effect except her story and correspondence that she presented, taken together, leads her to the speculation—I use the word speculation, as she used it—that he was an agent."

"She has not given us any facts that would change the picture as we know it up to the time she testified," Mr. Warren said. "She did not profess to give us any facts that would prove anything in connection with the assassination.

"She did contend that the correspondence [with Oswald] that she presented and her own testimony taken together in their entirety present a much different picture than has been given to the public up to the present time. She says she believes her son is innocent, that it is possible that he committed the crime but that it also is possible that other people could have committed it."

The plump, matronly appearing woman, when asked for a statement, moved readily to microphones set before cameras in the lobby of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Building on Capitol Hill, where the commission met.

She had declined to make a statement until today on the advice of her counsel, John F. Doyle, who was appointed by the District of Columbia Bar Associatoin at her request.

"I still believe my son, Lee Harvey Oswald, is innocent," she began. She vowed she would "continue public appearances and an investigation" to clear her son "if it takes another year to do so."

The assassin, she contended, "is still at large."

"I realize that as a human being he [Oswald] could be guilty," she said, but added that she had given the commission "evidence" that her son was innocent. Some of the documents she said she gave the commission were of a nature "the commission did not know before."

She said she and Mark Lane, the New York lawyer whom she has said she retained without fee to defend her son, had "investigators all over." She also said that she had received 1,500 letters with information on the assassination, including some from foreigners, and that she would not pass on "any tips" to the commission.

'Set Up to Take the Blame'

Asked whether she had contradicted before the commission the testimony of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Marina Oswald, who told the panel she believed her husband had shot the President, the mother asserted:

"My daughter-in-law has the privilege of making her own statements and I have the same privilege of making mine."

"Lee Harvey Oswald was not the killer of President Kennedy and he was set up to take the blame," she went on.

In most references to her son, Mrs. Oswald used the present tense, such as "I believe Lee is an intelligence agent."

"My son was a scrapgoat," she said at one point.

"Who can prove he is not a C.I.A. agent?" she said. "He isn't going to say he's a C.I.A. agent, and the Government isn't going to say he is. Lee, being an agent, would not say so to anyone."

Chief Justice Warren said photographs that Mrs. Oswald had sought to present to the commission were of her family in "early life" and had no bearing on the assassination. She wanted the commission to accept them on the condition that the panel "not show them to anyone," Mr. Warren said, but the commission would not accept this limitation. She then said she would not introduce them because "they were valuable to her for use in articles or books that she might write."

Mr. Warren indicated that other witnesses would be called soon. But he said this would depend on when "certain witnesses can get here and when certain members of the commission can be here."

Asked about a report that a janitor in the Texas Book Depository Building in Dallas would be the next witness, Mr. Warren said: "Maybe they know. I don't know."

Oswald is alleged to have fired the shots that killed President Kennedy from a sixth-floor window of the building.

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